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THE

MONTHLY

GULL

BULLETIN

Volume 55

Berkeley, California

April 1973

Number 4

### GENERAL MEETING: LIFE OF AUDUBON

THE APRIL GENERAL MEETING will feature a film biography of John James Audubon. It traces his life and career in both Europe and America and includes much beautiful footage of the various locales where he sought out and painted the birds of America. The meeting will begin at **7:30 P.M.** at the Rotary Natural Science Center in Oakland, on **Thursday, April 12.**

### GGAS ANNUAL DINNER

THE GGAS ANNUAL DINNER for 1973 will be held at the Garden Center in Lakeside Park, Oakland, on **Thursday, May 31.** There will be a speaker after dinner. Mark this date on your calendar and plan to attend. Further information will be published in the *May Gull*.

### GGAS BOAT TRIP

THE GOLDEN GATE AUDUBON SOCIETY will sponsor a boat trip to circle the Farallon Islands on Sunday, May 6. The trip will provide members with an opportunity to view nesting sea birds, many of which are sighted only occasionally from the coast. Past trips have produced sightings of Tufted Puffins in breeding plumage, shearwaters, and marine mammals.

Reservations should be made by sending \$10 per person to: Golden Gate Audubon Society (Boat Trip), 2642 Russell St., Berkeley, California 94705. Make checks payable to the Golden Gate Audubon Society. Space for the trip is limited and will be filled on a first-come-first-served basis. Please enclose a self-addressed stamped envelope. Further information will be mailed out with confirmation notices. Requests for reservations will be accepted only after April 5.

### MARIN AUDUBON SOCIETY BOAT TRIP

**SUNDAY, APRIL 15:** Farallon Islands traditional spring trip. Please note that this all-day trip does not stop at the islands, nor are passengers put ashore.

Meet at 6:45 A.M. for a 7:00 A.M. departure at the Blue Horizon pier in Sausalito, near the Spinnaker restaurant. All-day parking is

available in the city parking lot just south of the Shell service station at the *silver* (not blue) meters for \$1.00 (four *quarters* only). Bring lunch, beverage, warm clothing, and binoculars.

Reservations will be accepted in the order paid requests are received; *two* boats this year, for a total of 96 passengers. Send requests, with \$10.00 for each person, to Richard M. Brown, 490 Estado Way, Novato, California 94947, with checks payable to Marin Audubon Society. For further information, call him at (415) 897-7470, preferably on weekdays between 5:30 and 6:30 P.M.

#### FIELD TRIPS FOR APRIL

**Sunday, April 8:** Stevens Creek Park in Santa Clara County. Take highway 280 south; exit on Stevens Creek Boulevard; drive west for about a mile, and follow signs to the park. Meet in the parking lot at the dam at **8 A.M.** Driving time, 1½ hours. Leader: Ray Higgs (355-6264).

**Saturday, April 14:** Tilden Park, Berkeley. Are you interested in learning birdsongs? If so, meet Val DaCosta (383-6539) in the parking lot near the Little Farm at **6 A.M.**

**Sunday, April 15:** Sunol Valley Regional Park. Meet at **8 A.M.** at the brown cottage headquarters just inside the park entrance. Take highway 580 east; turn south on 680 at Dublin; exit on 84 (Calaveras Road); turn left; and follow signs to the park. Bring lunch. Leader: Tom Carson (581-2655).

**Wednesday, April 18:** Sunol Park. See directions above. Meet at **9 A.M.** Leader: Mrs. Ted Dement (527-7923).

**Saturday, April 21:** Briones Regional Park. Take highway 24 (Grove-Shafter freeway) east through Oakland and the Caldecott Tunnel. Exit at Orinda and turn at the stoplight on San Pablo Dam Road. Drive two miles to Bear Creek Road, turn left and drive about three miles to the park entrance. Park in lot on right-hand side about ¼ mile into the park. Meet at **8 A.M.** Bring lunch. Leader: Gene Hull (525-6893).

NOTE: the previous trip to Caswell Park on this date has been cancelled because of flooding in the area.

**Saturday, April 28:** the Presidio of San Francisco. Meet at **8 A.M.** inside the Presidio at the end of the #45 bus line. Transportation will be provided from here for those who need it. Bring lunch. Leader: Mary Louise Rosegay. 561-2889.

**Sunday, April 29:** Arroyo Mocho and the McCoy Ranch near Livermore. Meet in Livermore near the flag on North Livermore Avenue near the post office at **8 A.M.** Bring lunch and scopes. Leader: Aileen Pierson 587-4163.

**Friday - Sunday, May 4-6:** Camping trip to Pinnacles National Monument. Campsite #2 in the Chalone Annex group campground has been reserved for us for Friday and Saturday nights. For those who prefer not to camp, the nearest motels are in Hollister, 45 miles away—the Cinderella and Ponderosa motels. Birding trips will start Saturday and Sunday at **8 A.M.** Be prepared to walk, but no climbing. There will be a small entrance fee (probably 75¢); mention Audubon at the entrance. Leader: Warren Larson (525-9149).

**COVEL'S CONSERVATION CORNER**

THOSE DEDICATED CITIZENS who serve these days as directors or commissioners of public boards and agencies responsible for recreational lands—we hail and admire, but do not envy them. They must endure crushing pressures before reaching decisions and condemnation by powerful groups whichever way they act. So it was with the recent decision by the board of directors of the East Bay Regional Park District, declining to condemn the new Abbott tract housing next to Sunol Valley Regional Park. Only directors Jefferds and Cogswell voted to condemn the project.

Next, these long-suffering Directors will face pressure from spokesmen for the thousands of motorcycle and mini-bike owners who demand trails and practice areas within regional parks and will be assailed by the determined and eloquent conservationists who demand the Board resist all such requests. The GGAS Board of Directors in February sent a resolution to this park board and to Overview asking that no off-road vehicles (ORV) be permitted in existing regional parks (with provision for continued temporary use of the "cycle range" in Chabot Regional Park). Some members of the citizens task force advising Overview and the regional park directors want them to divorce themselves from plans to create "mechanical parks" or ORV areas on lands purchased with ORV registration funds (see my column in February *Gull*). It would be extremely difficult for the directors to refuse to participate because of political commitments. Much as I personally dislike these noisy, polluting ORV's or public open space, I can't pretend these fellow citizens and their vehicles will fold up and vanish if we ignore or disown them. Some public agency accommodation, management and policing will have to be provided.

A feature article in the February, 1973, *Sierra Club Bulletin*, a mailed appeal from the California Coastal Alliance, and various editorials and items in leading California newspapers all describe big-business attacks on Proposition 20 and acute needs of additional beach acquisition. Right now owners of certain first-class beach properties will sell at half market value or give one half to the state, rather than undergo legal conflicts in rezoning and developing these lands. But state funds for park purchases are all committed elsewhere. How about using some of that state surplus for this kind of emergency? Why not express your feelings about this to your legislator or to Governor Reagan?

More on that Oakland Estuary oil spill of last January: the total costs now look more like \$2 million. We neglected in our March column to mention that Norman McIntosh, the National Audubon Society's man at Richardson Bay, who rushed to the scene and then followed the oiled birds to Yountville where he and Mrs. McIntosh helped the Department of Fish and Game crew with the cleaning operation. Thanks to new methods many of those water birds could be placed back on the water within 48 hours!

How unfortunate . . . the poor female mountain lion who assertedly



hissed at a sheriff's deputy who encountered it near some old ranch buildings out in the Livermore Hills. He summarily executed the big cat. Of course, the old rabies bugaboo was given as an excuse, but state fish and game wardens later found the carcass in a taxidermist's shop and removed it to Davis, where tests found the big kitty "clean."

For Earth Week in April, why not tackle the waste monster who feeds on your solid wastes by joining the "Recycling Set?" Berkeley has three recycling centers and Oakland one; ask the Ecology Center, (548-2220). San Francisco has several; ask the San Francisco Ecology Center (391-6307). Many beverage companies accept certain cans and bottles. Let's reduce those bayside dumps!

### WOULD YOU LIKE TO EDIT THE GULL?

AFTER TWO YEARS as editor of the *Gull*, Steve Whitney is resigning in order to devote more time to other projects and responsibilities. His tenure will end with the June issue, so GCAS invites all those interested in assuming this job to notify the Berkeley office as soon as possible, so that someone may be selected in time to edit the July-August issue. No previous editorial experience is required, but some facility with writing is, of course, desirable. The total amount of time required by the job will vary with each individual and issue, but in general an applicant could expect to devote about 8-15 hours a month editing, writing, typing, and reading proof. If you would enjoy this kind of work and would like to actively participate in GCAS affairs, this job may be for you.

### FIELD OBSERVATIONS

- White Pelican*, 400, Feb. 25, San Joaquin River at Highway 140—VR.  
*White-faced Ibis*, 88, Feb. 4; 80, Feb. 25, Los Banos refuge—VR, *et. al.*  
*Blue Goose* adult, Feb. 25, San Joaquin River at Highway 140—VR, LCB, *et. al.*  
*Barrow's Goldeneye* pair, Feb. 15, Alameda South Shore—GB, JM, ER.  
*Harlequin Duck*, 4 males, Feb. 19, still at Pt. Año Nuevo—JM, GZ.  
*Hooded Merganser*, female, Feb. 9, Mountain View Cemetery, Oakland—BSU, VH.  
*Rough-legged Hawk*, Feb. 4, Sandy Mush Rd. near Merced Refuge—VR, SB; Feb. 9, two, Grizzly Island refuge area—JM; Feb. 25, six, Merced refuge area—VR, LCB, *et. al.*  
*Ferruginous Hawk*, 5, Feb. 4, Sandy Mush Rd.—VR, S & KB, JM, GZ, *et. al.*; Feb. 9, one, Grizzly Island—JM, GZ; Feb. 25, Merced Refuge—VR, LCB, RLeV.  
*Swainson's Hawk*, Feb. 25 (very early), Sandy Mush Rd.—VR, LCB, RLeV, DR.  
*Golden Eagle*, Jan. 23, Coyote Hills Park—JH; Feb. 4, Sandy Mush Rd.—VR; Feb. 8, Alamo—JR; Feb. 24, Briones area—VR.  
*Bald Eagle*, imm., Feb. 4, Sandy Mush Rd.—VR, JM, *et. al.*; Feb. 19, adult, 12 mi. east of Red Bluff—GP; Feb. 24, adult at Tomales Bay—VR.  
*Mountain Plovers*, Feb. 23, south of Avenal—MZ; about 50 there March 3—L & FN, FR, VH.

*Lesser Yellowlegs*, Feb. 9, two (with Greater) Joice Island area—JM, GZ.  
*Knot*, Feb. 2, one at San Leandro dump; Feb. 15, fifteen, Alameda South Shore—JM, R & MH.

*Ringed Turtle Dove*, early Feb. & Feb. 27, San Mateo garden—FR.

*Spotted Owl*, Feb. 24, still in Tomales Bay State Park—VR, *et. al.*

*Yellow-shafted Flicker*, Feb. 19, Año Nuevo State Reserve—JM, GZ; Feb. 23, male, Tomales Bay State Park—WMP, AM.

*Lewis' Woodpecker*, 40-50, Jan, 13, Lake Solano—JR.

*Williamson's Sapsucker* male, Feb. 21 -March 8, Mr. & Mrs. Epley's Lafayette garden—CRE, JR, HA, SSW (photos), *et. al.*

*Cliff Swallow*, 10, Feb. 4 (extremely early) Los Banos—VR, S&KB, *et. al.*

*Northern Shrike*, Feb. 9, two (immature at Joice Island, adult or sub-adult at Grizzly Island), both birds singing—JM, GZ.

*Palm Warbler*, March 4, Mill Valley garden—VL.

*Evening Grosbeak*, Feb. 1, Berkeley—VR; 3, Feb 1, U.C. campus—TC; flock of 60, Feb. 3, Berkeley—WK; 12, Feb. 4, Berkeley (Marin & The Alameda)—JH; 3, Feb. 13, Mountain View Cemetery, Oakland—JM, 32 Feb. 20, Mosswood Park—HW.

*White-throated Sparrow*, all Feb. at Berkeley feeder—VR; Feb. 4, Tilden Park—JH; Feb. 14, Richmond—D&LB; Feb. 21, Golden Gate Park Arboretum—DS.

*Observers*: Harry Adamson, Steve & Karen Bailey, Gertrude Bialos, Laurence C. Binford, Dan & Lucille Boelter, Tom Custer, Mr. & Mrs. C. R. Epley, Ralph & Margaret Hilton, John Hollis, Walt Koenig, Ron LeValley, Volna Losh, Alice Mericourt, Joe Morlan, Leroy & Fran Nelson, George Peyton, Wm. M. Pursell, Van Remsen, Florence Richardson, Joan Richmond, Don Roberson, Elsie Roemer, Dixie Sperling, Bertha S. Underhill, S.S. Whitehead, Herb Wong, Gary Zamzow, Mark Zumsteg. —Vi Homem, *Observations Chairman*. (When reporting *casual* or *accidental* species, please include details for our files.)

#### FIELD TRIP REPORTS

ON JANUARY 20, about 15 people explored Point Reyes on a sunny, but as usual, windy day. A total of 60 species of birds were found, including Common Scoters, Red-breasted Mergansers, Red-throated Loons, a White-fronted Goose, Rough-legged Hawk, Ferruginous Hawk, Golden Plovers, Common Snipe, and a Barn Owl.

On February 4, 25 people ventured forth on a threatening day to make the circle tour of Heerdt Marsh. Thirty-five species were seen, the most exciting being a Virginia Rail, which quickly ran for cover when it saw us. A Short-eared Owl sighted on the previous day failed to appear, but Mary Louise Rosegay found a Burrowing Owl to take its place. Other species included several Greater Yellowlegs, numerous Canvasbacks, scaup, Ruddy Ducks, Black-bellied Plovers, White-tailed Kites, and many Red-tailed and Marsh Hawks.

The enjoyable bus trip to Thornton was blessed with fine weather, but the swans were not so plentiful as in previous years. (Waterfowl populations have been very spread out this winter because of the ab-

normal abundance of standing water throughout the state, a phenomenon that may at least partly account for the reduced swan population in the Delta region. Other factors, of course, may also be involved—Editor's note.) We enjoyed excellent views of Soras and Common Gallinules in the marsh along Blossom Road and located both a Burrowing Owl and Barn Owl. Especially enjoyable for many people was the Redhead we sighted near the town of Holt. A total of 59 species were seen.

A total of 82 species were found on the rigorous but enjoyable trip to Los Banos. We found White-faced Ibis, but not so many as last year. Sandhill Cranes were abundant. The usual Snow Geese were there along with quite a few Ross' Geese. Other species included American Bitterns, Black-crowned Night Herons, Gadwalls, Cinnamon and Green-winged Teal (but no Blue-winged), Common Snipe, Long-billed Curlews, and Black-necked Stilts. Land birds included Horned Larks, Water Pipits, Tricolored Blackbirds, and Lincoln Sparrows. On the Merced refuge we found Barn, Burrowing, and Great-horned Owls and Ferruginous Hawks, a "life bird" for many.

#### **NATURAL AREAS CONFERENCE**

NATURAL AREAS IN CALIFORNIA, Their Past, Present and Future, will be the theme of a statewide conference to be held in San Francisco on Saturday, April 28, 1973. The conference is sponsored by the California Natural Areas Coordinating Council.

A distinguished group of scientists, business, government, and community leaders will participate in the all-day program. Among the subject to be discussed are the status of the state's natural area resources, the economic and political problems involved in their protection, and techniques of protection.

The conference will be held in conjunction with the publication of the first installment of the "Inventory of California Natural Areas," the first statewide listing of California's botanical, geological, paleontological and zoological areas of outstanding scientific or educational interest.

Further information on the conference and reservations may be obtained from the Council, Box 670, Mill Valley, California, 94941. A tentative (depending upon final determination of the conference site) registration fee of \$10.00, including luncheon, has been established.

#### **CHAPTER SPLIT—WHAT'S YOUR OPINION?**

AT THE JANUARY general meeting, members discussed the pros and cons of splitting GGAS into two branches. Similar divisions have occurred in other western metropolitan areas, all of which have been successful. Discussed were such points in favor of the division as: 1) the probability of greater increased membership; 2) increased participation and general interest among those already affiliated in San Francisco; 3) closer attention to the local conservation problems of San Francisco; 4) added field trips, enabling us to serve more people in smaller groups.

Some of the problems, or at least decisions, which must be made, concerning the use of the name Golden Gate Audubon; the setting up of a new monthly bulletin; finding new means of financing projects already under way; rounding up new leadership and other volunteer help; and eventually setting up a new office.



Much in favor among those present was a proposed "trial separation," in which the current board would continue serving for both organizations, the "Gull" and the treasury would be shared, but meetings and field trips would be held separately.

The coupon below is for *all* GGAS members, and is meant to offer each member a chance to express his opinion on this possible change, and also an opportunity to volunteer your help in the event it becomes a reality.

As a GGAS member, I approve/ do not approve (circle one) of the proposed division of GGAS into two separate chapters, San Francisco and East Bay.

Reasons, if you care to express them: .....

If a new San Francisco chapter should be formed, or be given a provisional trial, I volunteer my help in the following capacities:

Programs ..... Field Trips ..... Newsletter ..... Secretarial or office work ..... Attending conservation hearings or meetings ..... Legal Assistance ..... Fund raising ..... Committee work or service on Board .....

Please mail to our GGAS office, 2642 Russell St., Berkeley, Cal. 94705  
Att. Mrs. M. L. Rosegay

#### **NATURAL HISTORY EXPEDITIONS TO EAST AFRICA**

THE COUNTRIES OF EAST AFRICA are renowned for their national parks and game reserves. In no other part of the globe does there exist such a wealth of big game animals.

The itineraries of these natural history expeditions include the finest parks and reserves in Kenya and Tanzania, as well as the coral beaches and the life beneath the seas along the Kenya coast. On Expedition V there is an optional week in the Seychelle Islands and on Expedition VI there is an optional five day climb of Mt. Kilimanjaro. *Expedition V*: June 25-July 16, 1973 (22 days). Leaders: Glenn Moffat, Biology Instructor, Foothill College; Ted Chandik, Naturalist, City of Palo Alto. *Expedition VI*: July 16-August 5, 1973 (22 days). Leaders: Glenn Moffat, Biology Instructor, Foothill College; Robert Thomas, Biology Professor, College of the Redwoods. Maximum number of participants on each trip: 16. Cost of each, including round trip air fare from Los Angeles: \$1690. For further information or reservation forms write or phone Ted Chandik, 4238 Ruthelma Ave., Palo Alto, Calif. 94306 (415-493-5330) or Nature Expeditions International, P.O. Box 1173, Los Altos, Calif. 94022 (415-941-2910).

#### **MEMORIAL GIFTS**

A GIFT HONORING Mr. and Mrs. Oze Van Wyk on their fiftieth wedding anniversary was made to Audubon Canyon Ranch by Margaret Macormack.

A gift of remembrance was made to the ranch in memory of Mrs. Oliver C. Applegate by Mr. and Mrs. Robert M. Brown.



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## GOLDEN GATE AUDUBON SOCIETY, INC.

Established January 25, 1917 A Branch of the National Audubon Society since 1948

President .....	Mrs. Richard F. Johnson .....	1127 El Centro Ave., Oakland 94602	530-7118
Vice President .....	Raymond Higgs .....	340 Espanada Apt. 20, Pacifica 94044	355-6264
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Publicity Chairman .....	Ms. Dolores Johnson .....	425 Lee Street #34, Oakland 94610	832-6504
BAAC Delegate .....	Mr. Joshua Barkin .....	Tilden Park Nature Area, Berkeley 94708	524-2495

Send address changes to Membership Secretary promptly; Post Office does not forward *THE GULL*. Monthly meetings—second Thursday 7:30 p.m. Joint membership—Local & National \$12 per year, (individual); \$15 (family); includes *AUDUBON MAGAZINE* and *THE GULL*. Subscriptions to *THE GULL* separately \$2 per year. High school & college student membership \$6 per year.

The *Gull* deadline is the first of the month for the following month.